

December 14, 1999

9958 '99 DEN Nova Scotia, Canada

To: Jane Henney, Commissioner
FDA
5600 Fisher's Lane
Rockville, MD 20867
fax (301) 443-3100

From: Debbie MacKenzie
fax (902) 643-2312

Re: Bovine Growth Hormone/Robert Cohen's Hunger Strike

Dear Ms. Henney,

What is the most important thing on your agenda today? How much actual decision-making power does the "Commissioner of the FDA" really have? Can you, yourself, actually take a moral stand and act on it? Or is your position more like that of a "puppet"? I really cannot tell from this distance.

Do you believe that "improvements in technology" always confer more benefit than harm on the human race? If so, you are mistaken, since some major errors have been made, and continue to be made. A brilliant scientist once said: "Technological progress is like an axe in the hands of a pathological criminal" (Albert Einstein) Can you recognize Monsanto in that statement? Can you recognize Monsanto's accomplice? Einstein was far ahead of most scientists in his thinking, since he finally realized the folly of "messing with Mother Nature".

How much money have you been offered to wear the "milk mustache"? (Some of Robert's puns are funny, you must admit.) And how much grief will you be given if you decide to disappoint "mighty" Monsanto? I would appreciate a reply to these questions, but realistically expect them to fall on deaf ears. That, I find, is the usual nature of communication between the "insignificant" little guy and the big, "important" bureaucracy.

You can tell your buddies at Monsanto, and in your dairy industry, that informed Canadians are carefully avoiding "American" dairy products. And

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the numbers are rapidly increasing. Have you not noticed that consumers want very much to err of the side of caution in this case? Have you noticed the parallels between the BGH story and the tobacco story?

You will probably not bother to reply, after all I am not even an "American" taxpayer. But I want you to know that people around the world are very interested in the "American" FDA right now, and the focus of the interest is ONE story. Doing "nothing" is a conscious choice, and we are watching you. Our judgement will be based on your actions.

Good luck in your work,
Sincerely,

Debbie MacKenzie